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THE
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PART IV.

Official Papers.

ADDRESS

OF THE

DEWAN OF MYSORE

TO THE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY AT MYSORE,

on Friday, the 30th September 1887.

GENTLEMEN :—By command of His Highness the Maharaja, it is my privilege to lay before you today, the statements of the revenue and expenditure of the past year, which, from a financial point of view, has been the most prosperous in the history of the Province.

During each successive decade of the last 50 years, the average total revenue realized stood as follows :—

1836—37	to	1845—46	...	...	...	73 lakhs.
1846—47	to	1855—56	...	...	...	78 lakhs.
1856—57	to	1865—66	...	...	..	97¼ lakhs.
1866—67	to	1875—76	...	...	...	105¼ lakhs.
1876—77	to	1885—86	...	...	...	101½ lakhs.

During the past year, our revenue reached the unprecedented figure of 127½ lakhs, a result to which almost every item of revenue has contributed as will be seen from the statements I am now about to read.

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Receipts.

	1885—86. Rs.	1886—87. Rs.
Land Revenue	76,41,241	87,09,602
Excise	11,68,722	11,78,165
Forest	8,83,098	9,98,364
Stamps	4,80,479	5,15,326
Sayer	3,91,139	4,36,340
Mohatarfa	2,94,927	3,35,104
Law and Justice including Jail receipts ..	63,970	49,383
Post Office	65,303	68,008
Registration	50,459	56,014
Amrut Mahal	68,464	77,425
Education	24,322	23,588
Salt	21,623	26,107
Public Works	13,854	12,994
Sale proceeds of uncurrent copper coins .	2,936	1,482
Gold Mining	38,867	51,248
Miscellaneous	2,21,349	2,18,758
Total....	1,14,30,753	1,27,58,508

Expenditure.

A.

Subsidy	24,50,000	24,50,000
Civil List	10,00,000	13,00,000
Interest on Public Debt	4,94,793	4,96,955
Political pensions including allowances in lieu of Jahgir	1,02,630	1,01,901
Military Force	7,35,100	7,37,234
Total....	47,82,523	50,86,090

B.

Administration and Public Departments ..	2,04,119	2,36,699
Land Revenue charges. Deputy Commissioners and Establishments	1,40,270	1,60,776
Land Revenue charges. Assistant Commissioners and Establishments	58,134	58,744
Land Revenue charges. Taluk Establishments	3,13,316	3,18,715
Land Revenue charges. Revenue Survey	2,31,026	2,22,570
Land Revenue charges. Inam Department	8,265	7,964
Land Revenue charges. Remuneration of village servants ..	2,32,315	4,24,472
Land Revenue charges. Other items	20,450	30,612
Excise	15,576	16,123
Forest	2,26,070	3,20,687
Stamps	15,524	25,455
Sayer	13,632	12,839
Stationery and Printing..	60,516	69,718
Amrut Mahal	36,421	34,969
Topographical Survey	65,391	27,079
Archæological Research	..	8,445
Geological Survey	..	9,592
Total....	16,41,025	19,85,459

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C.

	1885—86.	1886—87.
	Rs.	Rs.
Law and Justice including Jails	7,38,016	7,45,289
Police	5,08,606	5,36,993
Education	1,56,429	1,75,610
Muzarayi	2,96,819	2,83,601
Medical	1,47,945	1,45,954
Superannuation pensions and gratuities ..	2,56,561	2,44,110
Public Works	11,32,299	12,71,132
Post Office	1,26,755	1,29,422
Registration	26,672	25,532
Minor Departments	19,123	17,400
British Officers' furlough and absentee allowances, retiring gratuities, compensation allowances and leave and pensionary contributions ..	42,590	33,852
Miscellaneous	2,41,594	2,28,709
Total.. ..	36,93,409	38,37,604
Grand Total....	1,01,16,957	1,09,09,153

Land Revenue.—The most important feature in the foregoing statements is the large increase of nearly 11 lakhs under Land Revenue. Out of this increase about 7½ lakhs were due to increased activity in the collection of revenue arrears, and to the better ability of the ryots to pay them owing to the general prosperity of the year, but the balance, namely, about 80 lakhs, may safely be regarded as the amount of normal land revenue for the year.

At the last meeting, I explained at some length the progress of this important item of our revenue during the past half century, and pointed out that it had then already fully recovered from the effects of the Famine of 1876—78. The figures before us show that it is now 7 lakhs better than it ever was. This satisfactory result is due to a marked extension of the cultivated area, owing partly to a highly prosperous season and partly to the extensive repairs recently executed to tanks and other works of irrigation. Improved communication by means of the Railway and new roads, and the prevalence of fair prices for agricultural produce have afforded a strong stimulus to agriculture all over the country, while the equalization of rates under the Survey settlement is already producing beneficial results.

The increase of over a lakh under "Forests" is accounted for by the better sale of sandalwood, which realized Rs. 6,48,348 against Rs. 4,74,436 in the previous year. The income from sale of timber was, however, less by about a lakh, as the accounts of 1885—86 included a sum of Rs. 1,42,000 on account of Railway sleepers, while, during the past year, the revenue from this source was only Rs. 32,000.

From Gold Mining, an income of Rs. 51,000 was derived—Rs. 47,000 on account of the 5 per cent Royalty, and Rs. 4,000 on account of leases granted.

All other items of revenue generally show a small increase under each head.

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The total expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 1,09,09,153 against Rs. 1,01,16,957 in 1885—86. The large increase of Rs. 7,92,196 is explained by the following principal items :—

Rs. 3,00,000	Addition to the Civil List of His Highness the Maharaja.
„ 1,92,000	Remuneration of village servants in Taluks into which the Survey settlement was recently introduced.
„ 94,000	Under "Forests" owing to extension of planting and felling operations.
„ 1,40,000	Under "Public Works" chiefly Irrigation.
„ 57,000	Under "Revenue," "Judicial" and "Police," owing to the reconstitution of Districts and Taluks abolished in December 1882.
„ 18,000	Owing to the new temporary Departments of Archæological Research and Geological Survey.
„ 10,000	Under "Stamps" owing to the supply of dies for Court Fee Labels, which formerly used to be supplied by the British Government.
Rs. 8,11,000	Total.

The Railway was managed by the State during the first 3 months of the year, till 1st July 1886, when it was transferred to the Southern Mahratta Company. During that period, the receipts amounted to Rs. 1,13,468 against an expenditure of Rs. 1,15,486, which included the outlay on capital works and on surveys, aggregating about Rs. 46,000.

The net surplus of the year amounted to Rs. 18,11,556, after paying (*a*) excess expenditure on the Railway and (*b*) excess credits of the Civil and Military Station. This, added to the revenue surplus on 1st April 1886 (Rs. 32,65,955), gave an opening balance of Rs. 50,77,511 at the beginning of the current year.

(*a*) Rs. 2,018.
(*b*) „ 35,781.

Budget Estimates for 1887—88.—The budget estimates of receipts amount to Rs. 1,16,39,452 against an actual income of Rs. 1,27,58,508 in the past year. The difference is due to the fact that the land revenue is estimated at only Rs. 76,97,000, being the average of the actual realizations of the past three years. It is probable that this estimate errs on the side of caution, for I think we ought to be able to secure a much larger revenue, if, within the next week, we get the few showers of rain, which are so much wanted now for our standing dry crops all over the Province.

A total expenditure of Rs. 1,14,89,452 has been estimated for, being Rs. 5,80,000 more than the actual disbursements of 1886—87. An increase of about 3¼ lakhs is provided for under "Public Works," of nearly a lakh under "Forests," and one lakh on account of the Jubilee Memorial Hall at Mysore and donation to the Indo-Colonial Institute in London. The provision for the Police has had to be raised by over ½ a lakh, under circumstances which will be explained hereafter; while, in the Medical Department, an improved Vaccine and other establishments, and a larger supply of medicines are expected to involve an additional cost of over Rs. 30,000.

Before taking leave of the subject of Finance, it only remains for me to add that, pending instructions from the Government of India, no settlement has taken place of the Railway Revenue Account for the last 9 months of the year, nor has any definite action been taken either towards the actual liquidation of the Famine debt, out of the money advanced by the Southern Mahratta Company, or towards the payment of the guaranteed interest to that Company. In the meantime, however, the surplus cash available is invested partly in Government 4 per cent securities and partly in the Madras Bank as current deposit, carrying, under a special arrangement, an interest of 2 per cent per annum.

Public Works.—I now come to make a few observations on the important subject of Public Works. As regards the Railway, it is only necessary to remark that the extension of the line from Gubbi to Harihar is being vigorously pushed forward by the Southern Mahratta Company, and that the proposal to follow a more direct route than the one *viâ* Tiptur, Arsikere, Kadur and Birur, has been definitely abandoned.

I am glad to observe that the traffic returns on the open lines appear to be steadily on the increase, and this I take to indicate the increasing general prosperity of the country. The transfer of the Railway to foreign capitalists enabled us in the last two years to devote to Irrigation much larger sums than we had been in a position to allot whilst Railway construction was one of the first annually recurring charges. This policy we are still pursuing; 10½ lakhs are set apart this year for our tanks and channels alone; and as the financial outlook at present is most hopeful, it is the intention of His Highness' Government to still further expand our operations so as to develop to the utmost the irrigation capabilities of the Province. I must not however fail to notice that it takes considerable time and thought to thoroughly mature irrigation projects, and that the supply of labor may be found inadequate for the work we would fain see executed in each year. The members of this Assembly have brought to notice year after year what appeared to them to be promising and desirable projects. These have invariably been made, or are now being made, the subject of careful investigation, and such of them as have warranted

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our sanction, whether on account of the fair revenue which may be expected to be derived therefrom, or in the evident interests of local prosperity, are now under execution, or will be so in due course. You may thus rest assured that no effort on our part will be spared in pushing to an early completion all schemes which are within our means and which are practicable from an engineering point of view. Already there is under preparation a definite programme of work to be undertaken during the next 5 years and it will include all projects which, so far as our present knowledge goes, offer reasonable hope of success.

Tank Maintenance.—I informed you last year that the tentative scheme for labor contributions from ryots for the earthwork of all tanks yielding a revenue up to Rs. 300, had been introduced into 8 selected Taluks. You will be anxious to hear what measure of success has attended this attempt to re-establish a custom which, though formerly well recognized, has unfortunately been allowed to fall into disuse in recent years. At the outset, there was, as indeed was anticipated, some opposition to the scheme in a few instances. But when it became known that the Government were in earnest and meant at once to do their part of the work, and only expected the ryots to do what legitimately was their share, the people readily recognized their obligations, and all opposition speedily disappeared. In the Nelamangala, Sira, Chellakere, Mandya and Shimoga Taluks, the scheme has been so far fairly successful, but in Arsikere, Kolar and Kadur Taluks, the efforts of the Revenue officials have, till recently, proved abortive from various causes, chiefly, the want of perseverance and tact on the part of the Amildars of those Taluks. On the whole, however, a fair measure of success has been achieved, and an extension of the scheme to other Taluks is now being effected. This necessitates our giving to the Amildar of every Taluk, a competent subordinate to help him in giving proper effect to the scheme, as each tank to be restored, however small, involves a certain amount of estimating, measuring and execution of masonry work, which the Amildars and the ordinary revenue staff are unable, without additional aid, properly to attend to. It is accordingly deemed necessary to give to each Taluk a Tank Overseer, to promote tank restorations, and at the same time, to enforce the maintenance of all tanks. Trained Overseers are however not ready to hand but the gradual disbandment of the Revenue Survey establishment offers the opportunity for training for these duties the best of the late Revenue Survey Measurers and drafting them gradually into our Shekdar service, which, I need scarcely remind you, remains to be placed on a sound and efficient footing.

The Government are thus giving full effect to the scheme as regards minor tanks with a revenue up to Rs. 300, but at the same time they feel also convinced that the revival of this ancient custom, may, with great benefit to the ryot, be extended to *all* tanks in the Province. Indeed, so far as the principle is concerned, there

is no difference, between tanks with a revenue of Rs. 300 and tanks above that limit. But, owing to the magnitude of the earthwork required to the latter, it was judged prudent to start with the limit of Rs. 300. The experience gained on these minor works shows most clearly that the ryot, to whom his tank is every thing, is not only not averse to his contributing his share of labor, but has, in many places, cheerfully come forward to make the revival of the system a complete success. The promise of Government to do at once the masonry and stonework to minor tanks, on the condition of the completion of the earthwork by the ryots themselves, has already led to the ryots under some of the larger tanks voluntarily undertaking to do the earthwork to their tanks also, provided a sluice and waste-weir were promptly given them as had been promised to tanks below the 300 Rupee limit. With regard to very large tanks, however, requiring heavy earthwork, it may not be proper to throw the whole burden on the ryots. To meet such exceptional cases we may perhaps continue the present system of demanding a money contribution in partial commutation of the ryots' obligation, or the better alternative would probably be to prescribe the maximum value of the earthwork, which, owing to past neglect, has now to be made good. In this matter, however, a great deal must always be left to the discretion of each Deputy Commissioner.

I need scarcely remind you gentlemen that the principle that the villagers must do the earthwork required for the proper mainten ance of their tanks, and appeal to the Government only when stone-work or masonry work is required, is an ancient custom of the land, as old as the tanks themselves. Successive Chief Commissioners of the Province took advantage of every opportunity to impress this principle upon the Executive officers of the Government. When the Irrigation Cess was imposed, the Government restricted the appropriation of the funds thereby raised, to the repair and improvement of tanks, as distinguished from mere "maintenance," which was expressly declared to continue as an obligation on the part of the ryots. So lately as October 1873, the Chief Commissioner in the Public Works Department laid down elaborate rules for the enforcement of this obligation as regards a particular class of tanks, *viz.* those already dealt with by that Department. The practical enforcement however of the ryots' obligation as regards all our tanks—whether brought up to standard by the Public Works Department or not—has varied very much with each District officer's appreciation of the importance of this part of his duty. In some Districts, notably in the Bangalore District, the ryots were made to fulfil their obligation, and the tanks generally are in excellent condition; elsewhere, as in Tumkur and Mysore, the ryot was allowed to forget his duty to his tank and the tanks generally are in very bad order. To add to this unsatisfactory condition of things, the Famine intervened and completely disorganized our administrative machinery. And the different opinions from time to time expressed as to the future tank-policy of the Government contributed not a little to unsettle people's minds.

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Under such circumstances, His Highness the Maharaja's Government deem it of paramount importance to declare and enforce a definite policy on the question, and hence the scheme above described which aims at the re-establishment of a formerly fully recognized custom—a scheme moreover which is essential for the well-being of the Province, for, it is possible in no other way to cope with the work of maintaining, in perfect safety, the enormous number of tanks, large and small, scattered all over the Province. When once this end is attained,—and it is possible to attain it only by the ryot making good the deficiencies due to his past neglect—the annual work required of him for proper future maintenance will indeed be very slight, and the Government will always undertake all work of improvement, all stone and masonry work, and also repair all damage done by breaches and other inevitable accidents beyond the power of the ryot to avert.

Such in brief is the tank-policy of the Government. And I here appeal to you, as Representatives of the various Taluks of the Province, to endeavour at every opportunity to impress on the people of your Taluks, that Government, in pursuing this policy, are influenced solely by the desire to place their magnificent tank-system on a thoroughly satisfactory and workable footing; that the ultimate benefit will be to the ryots and villagers concerned; and that, in contributing voluntary labor to works on which not only their food-supplies but their domestic water-supply mainly depend, they are but reverting to a time-honored custom.

I will only add that it is proposed to issue shortly a complete set of Rules on the subject of ryots' obligations to tanks. Copies of a draft of these Rules will be circulated among you, and the Government will be glad to receive from you any practical suggestions you may wish to offer, so as to better secure the end we have in view.

River Channels.—The future of our tanks is not of more importance to the various Districts of the Province than is the future of the Ashtagram River Channels to the Mysore and Hassan Districts. Their improvement and extension still engage the attention of our Public Works Department, and will continue to so engage it until the capabilities of our western rivers have been developed to the utmost extent of our power.

The enlargement and extension of the Jodi Rampur Channel is now well in hand, and a project is under consideration for the restoration of the Hulhalli Channel from the same anicut.

The extension of the Ramasamudram Channel to a distance of 10 miles beyond its former limit, is under execution, whilst a branch to the Kammanhalli valley to command 1,000 acres of land, is being surveyed.

The Rajaparameswari Channel is also being improved.

The question of extending the fine Virjanadi Channel is still under consideration. The best solution is not easy, for, although at first sight, it may appear that this channel commands and carries an ample supply, and that there is much rich irrigable land below an old extension which can still be traced, the levels and alignment of its bed and the height of the anicut from which it is derived materially limit its carrying power, and, as a fact, there is often much difficulty, towards the close of the irrigation season, in affording an adequate supply to the lands already irrigated.

The Anandur Channel also is now being improved, and in view to increasing its capabilities, the feasibility of restoring the Cholenahalli Anicut and Channel, the latter closely connected with the Anandur Channel, is now being investigated.

The possible restoration of the Madapur Anicut and Channel, or an alternative proposal of raising the Sriramadevara Anicut also commands the attention of our Public Works Department, as also proposals for improving and extending the old system of channel irrigation from the Yagachi River.

Roads.—I may now advert more briefly to our Public Works other than those connected with irrigation. Our net work of roads is being gradually extended, in the directions in which the requirements of trade or local demands indicate that extensions are necessary, and in this connection, Railway feeders find of course an important place.

Through the Kolar Gold fields, a metalled and bridged road is now being run which will connect the mines, on one side with the Kamasamudram Station of the Madras Railway, and on the other with the Bowringpet Station. The necessity of a first class road to facilitate communication with the Gold fields was impressed upon us by the rapid development of the mines during the last two years and the enormously increased traffic in this part of the District consequent thereon.

A long-talked-of road from Magadi to Closepet is now being pushed through and the important road to the west of the Bababudan Hills, to open out the fertile Jagar Valley is rapidly approaching completion. New secondary or District roads and the improvement of old ones are not forgotten, and the bridging of all streams which are an obstacle to intercommunication is gradually being effected. Amongst the more important bridges now under execution, I may mention the great Belur bridge, the Sulekere and Kumadvati bridges. Any of you who may have had occasion to travel to Belur, to Malebennur from Harihar or *vice versa* and from Sorab to Shimoga will know what impediments to travel were the unbridged Yagachi River, the Sulekerehalla and the Kumadvati.

Amongst miscellaneous works of public improvement, I must not omit to mention that we have thought it desirable to devote considerable sums to the sanita-

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tion of the Capital of the Province and to the improvement of its water-supply, in connection with which, I may mention in conclusion, that surveys are now being made in view to setting at rest the feasibility and cost of the long-vexed question of bringing into Mysore the sacred waters of the Cauvery.

Under the various heads of Public Works our actual expenditure during the past year and the budget grants for the current year are as follows :—

	Actuals. 1886—87.	Budget. 1887—88.
	Rs.	Rs.
Irrigation	... 7,68,904	10,67,812
Communications	... 7,97,548	8,47,872
Buildings	...2,53,417	3,49,302
Miscellaneous Public Improvements	...1,06,979	1,34,264
Total..	...19,26,848	23,99,250

Towards these works, the Budget grant from Provincial Funds amounts to 16 lakhs, the balance being available from District and other funds. Next year, we hope to devote to the same services a still larger sum should projects be forthcoming to justify an enhanced grant and should our somewhat limited number of Engineers prove themselves equal to the task. You will thus observe that the liberal grants which we are making in the furtherance of Public Works of all kinds, and which we propose to still further enhance in the near future, compare most favorably with what was done in pursuance of a similar policy in the most prosperous years of the enlightened British administration of the Province.

Gold Mining.—The examination of the auriferous tracts in Mysore, to which reference was made in my Address to you last year, has been recently completed. The preliminary investigations were undertaken by Mr. Lavelle, the original Kolar Concessionaire, aided by Mr. Marsh; and the localities indicated by them have been examined by Mr. Bruce Foote, Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India, whose services were kindly lent to us for the purpose by the British Government. The reports made by these gentlemen have been published, and much useful information is thus placed before the public in regard to the various important gold bearing tracts in the Province. The Government have also been able to adopt a definite policy in regard to the grant of mining leases, and revised rules on the subject have recently been published. These rules differ from those previously in force only in three important particulars, *viz*:—

1st, in the provision made for the grant of prospecting licenses;

2ndly, in attaching to the lease a condition that, within two years of its *grant, a company be formed with a paid-up working capital of not* less than £ 5,000 per square mile;

and 3rdly, in the express reservation of the right of the Government to limit the aggregate area to be granted for the time being, and to dispose of mining leases for such area by public competition.

It is hoped that the system of prosepecting licenses would be the means of enabling an intending investor to make a proper selection of the land required for mining purposes, and to spend in prospecting operations the necessary capital with the certainty of acquiring a right to such land as he may consider most valuable within the area prospected.

The condition that a certain amount of working capital shall be forthcoming within a reasonable period will, it is hoped, discourage mere speculation, and, at the same time, attract to the enterprise *bonâ fide* working companies.

The Government moreover have decided that it would not be right to grant away immediately the whole of the auriferous lands at their disposal, for, to do so would involve a needless sacrifice of their right to a fair revenue from this source, without in any way helping the real promotion of the enterprise, in all parts of the Province—an end for which no sacrifice would indeed be too great. At the same time, however, the Government are anxious to meet all *bonâ fide* demand for mining land, and they have accordingly fixed the limit of area to be granted in the current year at 35 square miles, in addition to the 8 square miles for which leases have already been promised. The system of competition by means of tenders, while affording a satisfactory adjustment of the claims of different applicants for the same land, will be the means of testing their actual market value under existing circumstances. Already men of influence and capital in England are, to some extent, attracted to our auriferous lands, and we may therefore entertain the reasonable expectation of an early and satisfactory development of the enterprise in parts of the Province outside Kolar, to which District it has practically hitherto been limited.

Before concluding this section of my Address, I wish briefly to advert to the action of the Government in some matters of general importance, which came under discussion in previous meetings of this Assembly.

For the difficult problem of garden assessment in the Malnad, a partial solution has been found in the Shraya Rules recently issued. The publication of these rules has been delayed hitherto owing to the difficulty experienced in placing a proper and satisfactory construction on Section 115 of the Draft Revenue Regulation now before the Government of India. This section has been the subject of a prolonged discussion with Mr. J. B. Lyall and with Mr. Fitzpatrick, from both of whom the Durbar have received most valuable help. On a careful examination of our revenue resources, and in particular, of the revenue derived from gardens, and bearing in mind the importance of uniformity in our system of assessment, His Highness' Government have arrived at the conclusion that it is necessary to retain in our revenue system

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a special garden rate, which has the sanction of the usage of the country and of our past revenue history. The Government accordingly propose to make their intention in the matter quite clear by adding the necessary clause to the Section in question. The Shraya Rules recently issued, however, meet an acknowledged present want, though they merely give formal effect to a very old system which fell into disuse on the introduction of the Revenue Survey. The rules offer liberal encouragement for the making of new gardens, as they allow—

1st, in the case of Malnad arecanut gardens, a nominal assessment of 4 annas per acre per annum for 12 years, and for a progressive assessment during the next 3 years ;

and 2ndly, in the case of other arecanut and all cocoanut gardens, an assessment of 4 annas per acre for 9 years and a progressive assessment for the next 3 years.

The views expressed at the last meeting of the Assembly incline me to believe that these terms will give general satisfaction.

The vexed question of the enfranchisement of Kodagi inams has at last been dealt with in a way calculated to afford the just relief which has so persistently been demanded in the Maidan Taluks of the Province. My recent visit to the Kolar District, where Kodagi tanks most abound, enabled me to study this question attentively. I have now little doubt that the complaint from Kodagidars is not so much against the justice of the Rules for enfranchisement sanctioned by the Government, as against the effect which has been given to them by the Inam Department. It is only too clear that Kodagi inams granted in reality for "construction and up-keep" of tanks have, in great many cases, been treated as those granted for "up-keep" only and thus, instead of being confirmed hereditarily on $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ quit-rent as they ought to have been, were enfranchised at $\frac{1}{2}$ quit-rent or for one life only. In other cases, when it was not clear whether an inam was for "construction and up-keep" or for "up-keep" only, the benefit of the doubt has been given to the Government and not to the Inamdar. Under such circumstances, His Highness the Maharaja's Government have directed a re-investigation and re-settlement by the Inam Department of all doubtful cases on the complaint of the parties concerned. The result of the re-settlement will doubtless remove all reasonable grounds for complaint, for, few Kodagidars, if any, ask for the complete restoration of the inams, and the consequent revival of their obligation to maintain the tanks, as a condition of the tenure.

On the subject of Inamdars' right to a share of the toddy revenue, the conflicting claims of the Inamdars and of the Government Abkari revenue have received most careful consideration, and the Government propose to offer to the Inamdars concerned the alternative of either the purchase of their rights by Government on a

just and fair valuation, or a system of rules to regulate and enforce the payments to be made to them by the Government Abkari Contractors. The subject will probably come under discussion at this meeting of the Assembly, and I do not therefore feel called upon to say more in regard to it at present.

The abandonment of the mohatarfa tax on looms is a question which has been again pressed upon the attention of the Government, who, I am glad to say, hope to be able ere long to abolish it altogether. This measure, when carried into effect will afford considerable relief to the weaver class which is so notoriously poor, and which suffered so severely during the late Famine. It will, I trust, be the means of bringing back to their former homes in Mysore, many families who have had, owing to this impost, to emigrate and settle in the adjoining Territories. The weaving industry by means of manual labor, is everywhere steadily declining, from causes over which we have no control, and it is only just that Government should give them such help as lies in its power. The annual revenue involved is about Rs. 50,000 Provincial and Rs. 12,000 Municipal.

I may also mention here that it is proposed to equalize the rates of the octroi on cloths levied by the various Municipalities. The present rate is 3 per cent *ad valorem* on the Indian Manufacture and 1½ per cent on sea-borne goods, while Mysore-made goods are exempt on the ground of the loom tax. Since the abolition of the import duty on sea-borne goods, there is no justification for the lower rate for them, and the abolition of the loom tax would make Mysore Manufacture again liable to the octroi. The rates being fixed on a uniform principle, resort to this species of taxation will of course be left to the discretion of each Municipality.

Police.—The Police Department has fairly kept pace with the general progress of the Administration, and in view to securing improved efficiency, the Government have had to sanction an addition to its cost amounting to Rs. 53,638 per annum. It will be in your recollection that in the general reductions which the financial necessities of the State demanded just before the Rendition, the number of subordinate Police officers was considerably reduced, and the remuneration of the officers who were retained was also cut down. You will observe that reduction of the number and pay of officers who continued to discharge, more or less, the same responsible duties was not calculated to promote zeal or efficiency. It has therefore been found necessary to afford some measure of relief to the subordinate service in the shape of improved pay and prospects. The numerical strength of the Force has also received some accession wherever it was absolutely required. Though we have restricted our measures of reform to the most urgent necessities of the case, it has been found unavoidable to make a considerable addition to the Police grant.

The re-organized scheme of the Police service thus set on foot has not long been in work, and it is therefore too early to pronounce decidedly on its merits;

but the objects of His Highness' Government in placing it on a more satisfactory basis are already beginning to be realized in the more faithful report of crime, in the more successful detection and prosecution of offenders, in the closer surveillance of criminal gangs and classes, and in the more vigorous suppression of organized crime.

There is a great deal, doubtless, yet to be done. The Police Force has to be brought up to a better standard of education. Detection of crime has to be reduced to more of a system and less dependent upon lucky chance or quasi-confessions. The Village Police remains to be placed upon a more satisfactory footing, especially in the matter of grain emoluments, and its co-operation secured in a larger measure.

Forest.—Turning now to Forest administration, it is only necessary to observe that much has been done not only in the way of conserving additional tracts of forest and jungle, now being overworked and on the road to ultimate destruction, but also in that of forming extensive plantations of the more valuable kinds of timber producing trees. A speedy return for the outlay on these plantations cannot be expected; but the growth of teak seedlings in the Lakvalli jungles has been so promising, that ultimate handsome profits can be safely predicted.

The increased demand for fuel to feed the Railway and to meet the domestic requirements of the people, and the growing wants at the Gold mines, which our forests and jungles cannot, unaided, be depended upon to meet entirely, have been anticipated in some measure by extensive fuel-planting on account of Government. The increased expenditure thereby occasioned is money well spent and will bring in ample returns. The consumption of fire-wood at the Gold mines is so great, as alone to force up the price of fuel within the near future to a figure which promises that fuel plantations will pay even better than ordinary agriculture. In fact, the time has come, I think, for special encouragement being given to the promotion of private enterprise in fuel-planting, and the Government have now under consideration, a scheme under which special inducement will be given for the formation of private fuel-plantations on Government waste land.

Sandalwood constitutes the most important item of our Forest revenue, and it behoves the Government to insure an unfailing supply of it by carefully fostering young seedlings naturally reproduced, as likewise by artificial means. Efforts to grow sandal did not, till recently, meet with much success owing to imperfect information as to its habits. It is now grown in plantations with fair success, but being capricious in growth and choice of soil, it yet remains to be proved whether

the artificially-produced tree will have the same quality of scent as the self-grown. This doubt alone points to the necessity of carefully husbanding all natural growth; and the system of Sandal Manegars now partially revived, will doubtless be useful in our efforts in this direction.

Education.—The measures taken to promote the various branches of education, as described last year, combined with seasons favorable to the prosperity of a people so largely agricultural as those of Mysore, are undoubtedly bearing fruit in every direction. The numbers now under instruction in all classes of schools considerably exceed those of any previous period. Especially is this the case in the elementary schools, which are of such great importance as forming the basis of the whole Educational system.

In secondary schools also, a good advance has been made. Under the stimulus of the recently instituted Mysore Local Examination, a general preparation is going on for examinations in the Vernacular, while the Middle School Examination affords a similar goal to the Municipal and other English Schools in Taluk Stations. As regards the Mysore Local Examination, it is further proposed to recognize it as a test for some of the subordinate grades of the public service.

In higher education, the two principal Colleges make a good show in the University pass-lists, and the increasing number of collegiate students has led to Bangalore being appointed a centre for the B. A. Examination. On the Vernacular side, an important step has been taken in the establishment of the Karnataka Bhashoj jivini Sabha, having for its object the revival and cultivation of the Kannada language and literature. A College has been opened in connection with the scheme, and scholarships attached to it, which will induce natives of the literary class to give themselves to a systematic study of the language—a study which, it is to be feared, has fallen too much into neglect. Advantage has also been taken of the Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen Empress to found an Institute at Mysore as a memorial of the occasion, in which it is proposed to make as complete a collection as possible, of ancient manuscripts, both Sanskrit and Kannada, and to provide facilities to scholars for consulting and obtaining copies of the works.

In female education, Her Highness the Maharani's Girls' School at Mysore continues to take the lead, and the Girls' School in Bangalore has recently been placed on a similar footing under a Hindu Committee, controlled by the Municipality, the effects of which have already proved beneficial.

On all these various educational agencies, it may be allowed here to quote the words of the Viceroy, Earl Dufferin, in reply to one of the Addresses presented to His Excellency on the occasion of his late visit to Mysore :—"I am very glad that "you have touched upon the question of education, as it gives me an opportunity "of expressing, in as earnest and as strong language as I can command, the extra-

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"ordinary pleasure I have experienced in seeing on every side such manifest signs "of the deep interest with which that subject is regarded in this State, as well as the "liberal and intelligent energy with which its development is being prosecuted. "When I passed along what I imagine must have been a quarter of a mile of street, "lined on either side with rows, eight or ten deep, of the youth of the country, "congregated under their respective teachers, I felt that you were laying, broad "and deep for all time to come, the foundations of a prosperous future. But great "as has been my satisfaction at all these proofs of the progress made in the matter "of general education, I was still more pleased by a sight, which, I imagine, is not "to be seen in any other part of India, and that is, the appearance of rows and "rows of young ladies belonging to high-caste families assembled together under "the same admirable system, and enjoying, as far as I can understand, as extensive "opportunities of acquiring knowledge, of enlarging their experience and of "strengthening their understandings, as could be found in any of the most advanced "cities of Europe."

Archæology.—The work of examining and collecting ancient inscriptions has been extended over six more Taluks, and information of great value obtained for the early history of the country. The volume of Jaina inscriptions at Sravan Belgola is approaching completion, and will throw much light on hitherto obscure points in the history and literature of the country, besides furnishing much information of great interest. It is intended in future to make special arrangements for printing, which will allow of a more speedy publication of results than is now possible.

Along with the collection and translation of inscriptions, it is proposed to combine other branches of research in order to carry out a complete archæological survey of the country. Attention will be directed to illustrating the plan and architecture of typical buildings and monuments, and measures taken to conserve or even restore them as may be deemed necessary. Antiquities of all kinds will fall within the province of the survey, and all objects of special interest will be at once brought to the knowledge of the public. The arrangements for collecting ancient manuscripts have already been referred to under "Education". These undertakings cannot, it is hoped, fail to give life to the national history and lead to a greater appreciation of local interests.

There is one more subject, gentlemen, on which you will permit me to make a few observations: It is this Assembly, its constitution, and conduct of business.

I need scarcely tell you that this is the seventh time we meet, having been called together in the very first year of the Rendition. The earnest desire of His Highness was to take you into his confidence and make known to you the views and objects of his Government in the adoption of various measures for the administration of the country; he hoped thereby to obtain the benefit of your honest and

practical suggestions, and thus to advance the real welfare of his people. He now directs me to say that his hopes have been very fairly realized, and that the success attained in the past six years is an encouragement to his Government to persevere in their endeavours to make this Assembly of still greater use for the good administration of the Province. I am sure that in the Rules of 13th August last, you recognize His Highness' desire to secure in this Assembly as full a representation as possible of every interest in the country, and the most complete information regarding the wants and wishes of every class of his subjects. You will observe that these Rules provide for the first time a very important qualification, namely, the Property qualification. We expect great benefit to accrue from this step, for Property carries with it great responsibilities, and always makes the owner more sober in his views, more practical and just in his suggestions. In one shape or other, it governs the constitution of the popular assemblies of the west; and in applying it to an agricultural country like ours, we have naturally accorded the first place to the land-holder and have provided that each of our sixty-six Taluks may send five of its largest landholders. In the provision which enables our 8 Local Boards and 92 Municipalities to nominate members for this Assembly from their respective bodies, there is a fair guarantee for the proper representation of all classes and localities, while the privilege given to each of the more important Associations to depute a member to this Assembly may be the means of securing at our discussions the views of the more advanced section of the community. The Government think that these rules might be trusted to do good service for the time being, though they must of course be changed and improved as time goes on and more experience is gained.

I have now to draw your attention to the few simple rules published regarding the conduct of business. They are all designed to make our discussions more useful, to place at your disposal such information as may enable you to study previously the subjects regarding which you may wish to speak, and to give to your observations the authority and weight which the opinions of individual members can never be expected to possess. And I need only add that in this Assembly, the first place of importance must always be given to the discussion of subjects in which the public at large are directly interested, and under present circumstances, such interest is best ascertained by the desire for their discussion evinced by a majority, or at least an influential section, of the members who meet here. At the conclusion of this meeting, we shall be in a better position to form an opinion on the suitability of the rules now framed, and any alterations or additions required, could then be readily adopted.

Gentlemen, at the beginning of this year, you were here to receive His Highness the Maharaja's illustrious guest, the Viceroy and Governor General of India, Earl Dufferin. I need not remind you—for the whole proceeding must be very vivid in your recollection—how His Excellency was pleased with the evidences of

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the peace and welfare of this part of India, and how he congratulated His Highness the Maharaja upon calling to his counsels, men of your intelligence and influence. His Highness trusts that you will draw encouragement from these words of Earl Dufferin, and continue to evince in administrative measures the same interest as heretofore.

His Highness directs me also to inform you that in the next cold weather, he proposes to proceed to Calcutta to return the visit of His Excellency the Viceroy.

K. SHESHADRI IYER,
Dewan of Mysore.